THE RICHARD EATON SINGERS

Sandra Munn, Conductor

present

FESTIVAL PRELUDE

Tuesday, June 2, 1970
8:30 p.m.

Convocation Hall
Arts Building

PROGRAM

I	BLEST ARE THE PURE IN HEART *Lillian Upright, organist*	*Richard Eaton*
	CRUX FIDELIS	*Michaelides*
	IL BIANCO E DOLCE CIGNO	*Arcadelt*
II	HAVE MERCY, LORD, ON ME (St. Matthew Passion) *June Hunt, contralto* *Lillian Upright, pianist* *Dolly Ann Gort, violinist*	*J. S. Bach*
	ALL MEIN GEDANKEN Op. 21, No. 1	*R. Strauss*
III	CHRISTUS FACTUS EST	*Bruckner*
	"THOU HAST MADE ME, AND SHALL THY WORKE DECAY?"	*Violet Archer*
	"IF FAITHFUL SOULS BE ALIKE" (from a cycle of 4 Sonnets by John Donne)	*Violet Archer*
	O HOLY SPIRIT, LORD OF GRACE	*Richard Eaton*

Intermisison

IV	WITH VERDURE CLAD (Creation)	*Haydn*
	ER IST'S *Ruth New, soprano* *Lillian Upright, pianist*	*Wolf*
V	HIS YOKE IS EASY (Messiah)	*Handel*
	HOW LOVELY ARE THY DWELLINGS (Requiem)	*Brahms*
VI	Recit and Aria—"ALL MY SOUL WITHIN ME SHUDDERS" (Christ on the Mount of Olives) *Nigel Lemon, tenor* *Lillian Upright, pianist*	*Beethoven*
VII	VERGER	*Hindemith*
	FOUR SLOVAK SONGS	*Bartok*
	SIX FOLK SONGS	*Brahms*
	THREE FRENCH-CANADIAN FOLK SONGS	*Richard Eaton*

THE RICHARD EATON SINGERS

Choral Repertoire 1970

O HOLY SPIRIT
BLEST ARE THE PURE IN HEART
THREE FRENCH-CANADIAN FOLK SONGS — Richard Eaton (1915-1968)

Richard Eaton expressed himself in musical composition with sincerity and impeccable taste. The hymn anthem, "O holy Spirit, Lord of Grace," was composed as a wedding gift for Jocelyn, a devoted student, and Rev. Blake Prichard, her betrothed.

The Anthem, "Blest are the pure in heart," written when the composer was in his twenties, was inspired by the beauty of Rev. John Keble's text and dedicated to the composer's father-in-law, C. V. Frayn, and the choir of Knox Crescent Church, Montreal.

"Three French-Canadian Folk Songs" were arranged for chorus by Richard Eaton with not only a fine sense of the choral medium, but with a first-hand familiarity with the bon vivant *spirit of the French Canadian. The dedication to The University of Alberta Mixed Chorus is like a "tip of the hat" to the young men and women whose enthusiastic singing gave him such pleasure.*

IL BIANCO E DOLCE CIGNO — Jacob Arcadelt (1514-1570)

Jacob Arcadelt was a composer of Italian madrigals, French chansons, motets and masses. In "Il bianco e dolce cigno," he combined the Italian and French styles to comment pensively on the swan who will die singing, while man must face death with grief.

CRUX FIDELIS — Solon Michaelides (1905-)

Venantius Fortunatus (A.D. 540-600), Bishop of Poitiers, poet and mystic, was the author of the Latin hymn, "Crux Fidelis." Fortunatus saw in the Cross the Tree upon which was hung, as in a balance, the Ransom of the world. For the medieval Christian the Cross had become the Tree of salvation. As sin and death had entered the world by the Tree in the garden, so by a tree the redemption of the world was achieved. Nay, the Tree of the Garden had been miraculously preserved, and from its wood, by the poetic justice of God, was formed the Cross, that Tree which bore a better fruit for the healing of the nations.

CHRISTUS FACTUS EST — Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Anton Bruckner's gradual for Maundy Thursday, "Christ became obedient for us unto death, even the death of the cross," has been said to reflect the composer's entire personality and spirituality. The opening words are given music of the utmost solemnity, while the succeeding statement, "wherefore God also hath exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above every name," inspires the composer to employ the full range of Romantic expressiveness.

SELECTED CHORUSES FROM HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"
AND BRAHMS' "REQUIEM"

Two more widely loved oratorios could scarcely be named. The nobility of Christian faith expressed in Handel's "Messiah" spans over a hundred years to re-live in the noble humanity of Brahms' "Requiem for the German People."

SONGS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE — Violet Archer

Violet Archer was born in Montreal. She is presently Professor of Music at The University of Alberta.

The selections, "Thou hast made me," and "If faithful souls be alike glorified as angels," are the first two movements of a choral cycle, "Songs of Prayer and Praise," composed in the fall of 1953. The cycle consists of four movements. These are the musical settings of five selections taken from John Donne's "Holy Sonnets."

The composer states, "I believe that there is a place in the concert hall for sacred music based on non-liturgical texts, hence the reason for setting these to music. The formal structure of the music is suggested by the form of the poetry. The rhythmic patterns are suggested by the texts, which are rich in imagery. The five poems are of a philosophical nature. They reflect as a whole on man's need for a complete faith in God in every phase of his everyday living."

VERGER (ORCHARD) Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

Paul Hindemith has borrowed the style of the sixteenth-century chanson and added some tonal surprises. The sweet scent of nature breathes through this gentle scene.

SLOVAK FOLK SONGS Bela Bartok (1881-1945)

I The wistful tale of an unhappy maid, rejected by her mother and fated to live far from home with an ill-suited mate.

II The regular pulsating of an irregular metre suggests a lullaby for the weary mountain folk.

III Food and drink, song and dance, a bagpipe carousel of peasant revelry.

SIX FOLK SONGS Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

These folk songs are from a set of twenty-six that Brahms arranged for unaccompanied mixed chorus. They are true folk songs, and in the musical setting the only hint of Brahms is the artful simplicity and honesty of purpose with which they are set.

Notes: Arthur Crighton

THE RICHARD EATON SINGERS

Late in 1950, a group of alumni of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus approached Professor Richard S. Eaton, who had been their conductor and was Head of the Department of Music, and asked him to consider leading another chorus which would be open to the members of the community in Edmonton. He agreed to the proposal and formed the University Singers, a community extension of his choral work at the University.

In 1951, an executive was formed to assist in the operation of this new chorus, and membership was open to all interested Edmontonians, through audition. From 1951 until May 1967, Prof. Eaton trained and conducted the Singers with a stress towards oratorio performance with orchestra, but also a capella works. By this time the chorus had grown to one hundred and twenty members. Due to Prof. Eaton's demands for a high calibre of dedication and musical standard, premières in Western Canada of major choral works were presented.

Prof. Eaton left Edmonton in September 1967 with his wife and daughter to begin his sabbatical leave, and he delegated his responsibility for the University Singers to Sandra Munn, Assistant Professor in the Department of Music. Following his untimely death on January 25th, 1968, at Rhodes, Greece, the chorus has continued in the tradition of growth based on standards which he set.

The pioneer spirit which was his was brought to fruition by the change of name to the Richard Eaton Singers, and this commemorative tour.

Due to family, business, and professional commitments, many members are unfortunately unable to share in the privilege of such an adventure, but those who have been able to make this commitment are privileged to do so.

—Sandra Munn

"It was his vision and courage, enthusiasm and hard work that widened the horizons for choral music in Edmonton, that united the singers and players from the University with those outside it, and that gave his successors meaningful leadership."

—Anne Burrows, The Edmonton Journal.

THE RICHARD EATON SINGERS

Soprano

Jane Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Susan Bain
Elizabeth Bishop
Yvonne Bourke
Ann Farebrother
Pamela Farmer
Shirley Foster
Elvera Frame
Marion Francis
Ann Grant
Phyllis Harris
Carolyn Howie
Marion Hyslop
Barbara Lewis
Nancy MacLeod
Joan Manuel
Rose Markle
Ida Minchau
Johanna Mostert
Alice Mix
Edna Nazar
Ruth New
Vivian Phillips
Olie Rudyk
Ruth Schuster
Lorren Scott
Inge Sheppard
Mavis Thompson
Helen Tuttle
Viola Wallbank
Shiela Wilkerson
Jenifer Williams
Doreen Youngs

Alto

Jane Adams
Lenore Bateman
Jacqueline Charlesworth
Marianne Elder
June Hunt
Eleanor Iftody
Natalka Klybanowsky
Mildred McFadzean
Peggy Matheson
Ruth Mills
Evelyn Norman
Olga Plambeck
Linda Rafuse
Wendy Russell
Janet Sheriff

Tenor

Cliff Arnold
Warwick Burgess
Byron Harker
George Karvellas
Nigel Lemon
Ken Lysenko
James Mann
Alex Markle
James Plambeck
John Redford
John Sheriff
Jules Tuba

Bass

Rob Bruce
Theo Bruseker
Jack Calvert
Don Cunningham
Ron Dewar
Orval Doney
John Hudson
North Johnson
Albert Krywolt
Denis Letourneau
Chris Loree
Arthur McHugh
Ivan Mallett
Arthur Newman
Charles Norman
David Sheppard
Robert Swanson
Arnold Voth
Kurt Zimmerman

Executive

Honorary President—Mrs. Richard S. Eaton

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Dr. Jack Calvert

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Arthur Newman

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Sandra Munn

Assistant Conductor and Accompanist
Lillian Upright

Tour Chairman
Dr. James Plambeck

Tour Accompanist
Mary-Lou Cleveland